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WILLIAM J. CADIGAN
Chairman

JOHN R. KEITH
Vice Chairman

STEVEN S. SANDVOSS
Executive Director

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100 W. Randolph Street
Suite 14-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312-814-6440

2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217-782-4141
www.elections.il.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Matt Dietrich
(217) 558-1955
mdietrich@elections.il.gov

BOARD OF ELECTIONS INTRODUCES NEW WEBSITE

SPRINGFIELD, June 4, 2019 – The Illinois State Board of Elections this week introduced a newly redesigned website with improved performance on both desktop and mobile platforms.

Visitors to www.elections.il.gov will experience a site that incorporates a more pleasing design and an improved organizational structure designed to help users access the information they need as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The new design represents the first major overhaul of the website since the State Board of Elections began publishing campaign disclosure records online in 1998. Since then, thousands of documents have been added to the site along with tools to provide election and registration information to voters. The site also receives heavy use from political committees filing campaign finance reports, local election authorities, candidates seeking information on running for office and researchers, journalists and the general public in search of election data.

A major component of this project involved optimizing the site for mobile devices. Users accessing the site via cell phone or tablet now will find a mobile-friendly design that aids in finding and using all the site's features.

"The new site design advances the goal of bringing transparency and openness to all aspects of the election process in Illinois," said Board of Elections Chairman William J. Cadigan. "The new format not only makes election information more readily available to the public, government watchdog groups and media organizations, but it also presents it in the most user-friendly format possible."

The new website is anchored by seven tabs atop its homepage arranged by user and type of information sought: voters, political committees, candidates, election numbers, business registration, news media and board meeting information. The tabs open to display drop-down menus with links to specific documents and pages.

The design places special emphasis on serving voters seeking to register, check their registration status, find their polling place, look up their elected officials and find election information.

“A typical voter might visit our site once every few years for their own election information,” said Vice-Chairman John Keith. “Among our many users, they’re likely to be the least familiar with the site, so it’s especially important that they can quickly locate what they’re looking for.”

Users researching campaign finance data will find two new features to make sorting search results more efficient. The first is on-screen sorting of contribution and expenditure search results. Clicking a column heading allows sorting by date, amount or another category.

The other is a one-click download option for search results. By selecting CSV file when downloading results, the user can instantly move data into a spreadsheet for more detailed sorting and analysis. (This eliminates the need to copy and paste results, though users still can do so by downloading data as an XML or tab-delimited text file.)

Additionally, the site’s search function will display results in a new arrangement designed to more precisely address the target of the search.

Users of the Illinois Disclosure Information System should note that nothing on the IDIS area of the website has changed, including login names and passwords.

The new website went live at 4 p.m. Monday, June 3. The current website will remain accessible for about a month via a link on the new site.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the State of Illinois. Elections are administered locally by the State’s 108 election authorities.

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